Vol. VIII. Numb. 23

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Pope's ſhuffling about owning King Charles. *The Talk of allowing the Duke of* Anjou, Naples *and* Sicily, *a good Pretence for his Chicaning. Inſtances to prove, that the* French *King is not to be held by any Treaty; and that the beſt Way of obliging him to keep Treaties, is, to reduce his abſolute Power, and reſtore his Proteſtants: With an Anſwer to ſome Objections againſt it.*

From Saturday, April 16. to Wednesday, April 20. 1709.

Obſ. I Hope, *Roger*, this Mail has brought us ſome farther Light into the Negotiations of Peace.

Country-m. Not a Bit more, Maſter. Thoſe Negotiations are as much a Secret as ever, by what I can hear; ſo that for my own Part, I am afraid ſome Trick will be put upon us.

Obſ. Why ſo, *Roger*?

Country-m. Becauſe, Maſter, I perceive the Pope, or ſome Body elſe, has trick'd the Emperor and us too. We were both at Expence to oblige the Pope to lay aſide his Deſigns of kindling a new War in *Italy*, and to bring him to an Acknowledgment of King *Charles*; but now that the Emperor's Troops are withdrawn, the College of Cardinals and he toſs the Ball from one to another. He refers it to them, and they refer it back to him; ſo that the Thing is not done, which gives the *French* Affairs a Reputation in all Popiſh Countries, and makes the bigotted *Spaniards* ſtill adhere to the Duke of *Anjou*.

Obſ. I don't wonder at the Pope's Conduct in that Matter, *Roger*; for no Doubt he knows the *French* King's Mind, and that of ſome of the Allies too; and ſince he hears there's a Ballancing among ſeveral of 'em towards a Peace upon the Foot of a Partition, he has no Reaſon to be haſty in the Matter; for if the Duke of *Anjou* have *Sicily* and *Naples* allow'd him, the Pope is in the Right to take care how he diſobliges ſo near and ſo powerful a Neighbour, who, with what Aſſiſtance he may have from his Grand-father, will ſoon be able to raiſe ſuch a Force by Sea and Land, as may quickly ſubdue all *Italy*.

Country-m. I take the Pope's Refuſal to acknowledge King *Charles*, and his managing the Treaty ſo artfully with the Marquiſs *de Prie*, as to have it left out of the Articles, and refer'd to the College of Cardinals, to be a Mixture of *French*, as well as of *Italian* Politicks, Maſter; and I cannot but wonder, that the Marquiſs *de Prie*, being an *Italian*, ſhould not have perceiv'd, that the Pope and the *French* King would make Uſe of it to gain Time. Princes had need be cautious as to their Plenipotentiaries. For my Part, I believe, that ſuch plain blunt Fellows as your *Roger*, would be more faithful to the Intereſt of their Country, than thoſe they call refin'd Politicians. But in the mean Time, I hope there's this gain'd by it, That the reſt of the Allies will take Care not to be trick'd by the *French* King in the preſent Negociations.

Obſ. I hope ſo too, *Roger*; and in order to that, 'twould be neceſſary to conſider his Character; which moſt People ſeem to have forgot, and to think, that his Age and Misfortunes have ſo far reform'd him, that he will not hazard a new War, by breaking his Treaties now, as he has done formerly.

Country-m. Others may do as they pleaſe, Maſter, but I am ſure *Roger* would never truſt a Man that is grown old and gray-headed in Wickedneſs. In the mean Time, I muſt pray you to give the Publick a ſhort Account of his former Behaviour in Treaties; for ſince ſome People are willing to forget it, that's a very good Reaſon why others ſhould be put in Mind of it.

Obſ. With all my Heart, *Roger*; I will do it in as few Words as I can, to make it plain. Then, 1. It ought to be conſider'd, that Cardinal *Mazarin*, and others about him, bred him from his Youth in Principles of Diſſimulation and Treachery, in order to fit him for their Deſign to deſtroy the Proteſtant Religion, and the Liberties of Mankind: and prompted him to it by flattering his Ambition with Hopes of the univerſal Monarchy, which he could never obtain by any other Methods.

2. That he prov'd ſo apt a Scholar, that as ſoon as he came to be a Man, he marry'd the *Infanta* of *Spain*, with a form'd Deſign to graſp the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, and to ruin the Houſe of *Auſtria*, as the chief Family that would ſtand in his Way. Now, this being a heavy Charge, ought to be well prov'd, *Roger*; therefore I ſhall give you good Evidence for it: And the firſt, is, Cardinal *Mazarin*, his Tutor and Inſtructer, who in his Letter to M. *Lionne*, of *Aug.* 1. 1659. owns, that *Lewis* the XIVth enter'd into the Renunciation of all the Right that the *Infanta*, or her Poſterity, by him could claim to the *Spaniſh* Dominions, with a Deſign to break it; for he plainly confeſſes, that he marry'd her with a View that ſhe might come one Day to be Heireſs of that great Monarchy; yet every one knows, that he ſolemnly ſwore to that Renunciation at the Altar, agreed to have it inſerted in their Contract of Marriage, and ratify'd it by the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*. The ſecond Evidence, is, M. *Auberry*, an Advocate in the Parliament of *Paris*, and one of the *French* King's Council, who, in his Life of Cardinal *Mazarin*, dedicated to *Lewis* the XIVth, Tom. II. pag. 554. commends the Cardinal 'for 'acting prudently, in ſigning the Contract of Mar'riage, without any Regard to the Renunciation, which 'M. *Auberry* pretends was evidently againſt common 'Right, and to the Law and general Cuſtom of 'the State; and therefore might lawfully be con'tradicted and diſavow'd. Now, *Roger*, here's two unexceptionable Evidences of the *French* King's Swearing to that Renunciation, with a Deſign to break it; and ſince he was taught ſo early to break thro' all that was moſt ſacred in the Religion that he himſelf profeſſes, and that he has follow'd the ſame Practice ever ſince, I think it a ſtrong Argument, that we are never to truſt him 'till he be render'd uncapable of breaking his Treaties: And I am ſtill of Opinion, that tho' the Continuance of the Alliance even after a Peace, may be very neceſſary to over-awe him, or his Succeſſor, yet the beſt Guarrantee we can have, is, reſtoring the States of *France* to their ancient Power; for were that once effected, he muſt firſt conquer them, before he could attempt any farther Conqueſts upon his Neighbours; and the Allies, by ſending them Aſſiſtance, might put it out of his Power either to do the one or t'other.

Country-m. But there's a certain Author, who contradicts you in that Point, Maſter, and ſays, the *French* are ſo fond of their Chains, that they care not to be made free; and that neither this, nor reſtoring his Proteſtant Subjects to their Liberty, can be ſtipulated in a Treaty. Beſides, the Houſe of *Auſtria* will not join with us in the latter.

Obſ. I believe, *Roger*, the Houſe of *Auſtria* never imparted

imparted their Secrets to Authors of other Nations, nor took them into their Councils. But how does he know that? Methinks his Writing with so little Success against bringing the Pope to Reason, might have taught him a little more Caution. We know the House of *Austria* have both formerly and of late agreed to Treaties for giving Protestants their Liberty in the Empire; and since 'tis evidently their Interest to have the *French* King's Power limited, as much as possible, and that the restoring of the Edict of *Nantz*, and of the cautionary Towns to the Protestants, would be one good Way to do it, by keeping up a Ballance of Parties in his own Dominions, why should he think they would be against this? Don't they know, that the Protestants in the Empire are a Ballance upon themselves? And is it not natural to think, they would be willing to have a Ballance of the same Kind upon the *French* Monarchy? There's a Writer, who knows the House of *Austria*'s Affairs very well, *Roger*, who plainly owns this; and that is, the Author of the *Partition of the Lyon in the Fable*, which was translated here by Count *Wratislaw*'s Order; where, pag. 14. we have these Words: 'The Emperor is encom-'pass'd on all Hands by potent Neighbours, that 'are jealous of his Aggrandizement. The Pro-'testants of the Empire and the *North*, are always 'upon their Guard, and observe the Emperor's Steps. Can any Man think then, that the House of *Austria* would not be willing that the *French* Protestants be also put in a Condition, by having the Edict of *Nantz*, and their cautionary Towns restor'd, to observe the *French* King's Steps? Is not that what the *Talion* Law requires of 'em? Did not *France* espouse the Cause of the *German* Protestants, tho' they persecuted and massacred their own, and enabl'd them by the Treaty of *Westphalia* to bind up the Emperor's Hands? Then as to the *French* King's absolute Power, 'tis as natural for the House of *Austria* to desire to have that taken away, by setting up the States to be a Check to it: They know themselves to be limited; and I dare venture to say, they would be glad to have *France* so; for that very Book above-mention'd, which was writ by the House of *Austria*'s Order, tells us, pag. 15. 'That 'if we take a View of the State of *Europe*, under 'the House of *Bourbon*, in its two Branches, and 'compare it with what it was under the two 'Branches of the House of *Austria*, the Superiority 'of the eldest *French* Branch alone consider'd in the 'Advantages of its Situation, *Government*, Forces, 'and the *Maxims of the Kingdom of* France, is suf-'ficient to put it beyond all Comparison; and at 'the same Time to shew the Danger that results to 'all *Christendom* by such a great Increase of Power.

Then as to the *French* being so fond of their Chains, as not to be willing to have them broke off, we have much better Authority than that Person's, to the contrary. The Author of *The Desolation of* France, who knows more of the Inclinations of his Country-men, than all the *British* Authors in Town, is of another Mind, and therefore proposes the restoring of the Estates to their ancient Power. King *William* was of another Mind, when he brought the Duke of *Savoy* into the Alliance, and prevail'd with him to invade *Dauphine*; and Count *Guiscard* appears plainly to think otherwise. But 'tis needless to add any more Proofs, since the Insurrections in the *South* Parts of *France*, by the Camisars, and both Protestants and Papists, is a Demonstration, that had it been possible to have supported 'em in Time, the *Babel* of the *French* King's absolute Power had tumbl'd long ere now. Besides, *Roger*, there's another Way of doing this, than by Treaty; which is, for the bold *Britains* and their Allies to strike Home, as they did at *Schellenburgh*, *Hochstedt*, *Ramillies*, and *Audenard*. But more another Time.

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